

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The drawings have been objected to by the Examiner. Red-marked sheets are provided with amendments to Figures 3 and 4. Approval of the amendments to the drawings by the Examiner is respectfully requested.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested.

Drawing sheets containing Figures 3 and 4 have been submitted to cure the objections pointed out by the Examiner. For Figure 3, reference character 58 designating the perimeter flange has been changed to 59, thereby avoiding duplication. In Figure 4, the unnamed screw at the upper right corner of the drawing has been designated 78, as well as nut 80 in the lower left hand corner of the drawing to conform with the reference characters of Figure 3. It is believed that these amended drawings comply with the requirements of 37 CFR 1.121(d). Two sheets of red-marked drawings are enclosed. Anticipating approval of the drawing amendments by the Examiner, two replacement sheets are also being forwarded. Accordingly, the objection to the drawings is appropriate to be withdrawn.

The objection to claim 4 has been made moot by the deletion of claim 4. In claim 10, the word "be" in the first line has been deleted and the word "with" has been inserted after "provided" so that the claim reads . . . "wherein said insert is provided with one of . . .". Also, the extra period has been deleted from claim 11. In claim 15, the slash between "cylindrical" and "shape" has been deleted. It is believed that these changes cure the objections raised by the Examiner.

Claims 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. Claim 6 has been deleted, thereby making the rejection of that claim moot. Claim 9 has been amended and incorporated into claim 1 to describe the insert as having an opening from the exterior to

the interior of the device. It is believed this language recites the elements of the claim with sufficient particularity that the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claim 1 now incorporates the substantive limitations of claims 8 and 9 which describe an important feature of Applicants' invention not found in the prior art cited by the Examiner. It is that the housing is provided in halves, as is appropriate for molding, and that the opening through which the flexible lifting element extends is a piece held between the halves so that the possibility of snagging or friction from the part lines at the opening is eliminated. This also enables Applicants to provide inserts using most of the hardware to provide a lifting device with a circular cross section as with a line or an elongated cross section to accommodate a lifting strap for heavier equipment. This allows the hunter or outdoor observer to utilize a line when the apparatus is light or use a strap when the apparatus is substantially heavier.

Claim 9, which contains the substance of amended claim 1, was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Biba. It is to be noted that Biba specifically does not have an insert received within the elongated opening 88 to receive the line to the exterior. Thus, Biba fails to have all the elements for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Furthermore, it is not believed to be obvious to modify Biba to meet the elements of Applicants' amended claim 9. There needs to be clear teaching and suggestion that a separate insert be provided to minimize the possibility of interference with the part line. Accordingly, it is believed that the rejection of claim 1 (which incorporates the substance of previous claim 9) patentably distinguishes over Biba and should be allowed.

The remaining claims have been made dependent on claim 1 and are patentable for the same reasons as discussed above. In addition, these claims provide further limitations on the already patentable limitations of claim 1 and depart even farther from the prior art.

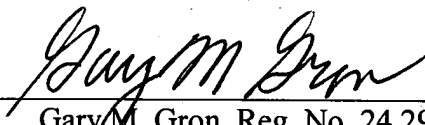
Specifically, claim 10 provides for one of a circular or elongated slot insert to provide a line or strap. No such feature is provided either in Biba or in any of the other references cited by the Examiner. Thus, it is believed that claim 10 also is patentable over the reference to Biba and should be allowed.

Claim 12 calls for an apparatus having first and second halves snapped together to form the elongated member. None of this is shown in either Biba or Rogers. This ability to snap the reel together enables efficiencies in manufacturing.

Subsequent claims 14-18 describe further details which additionally limit the already patentable description of the invention in independent claim 1.

In view of the amendment to the claims and the discussion above, reconsideration and allowance of this case is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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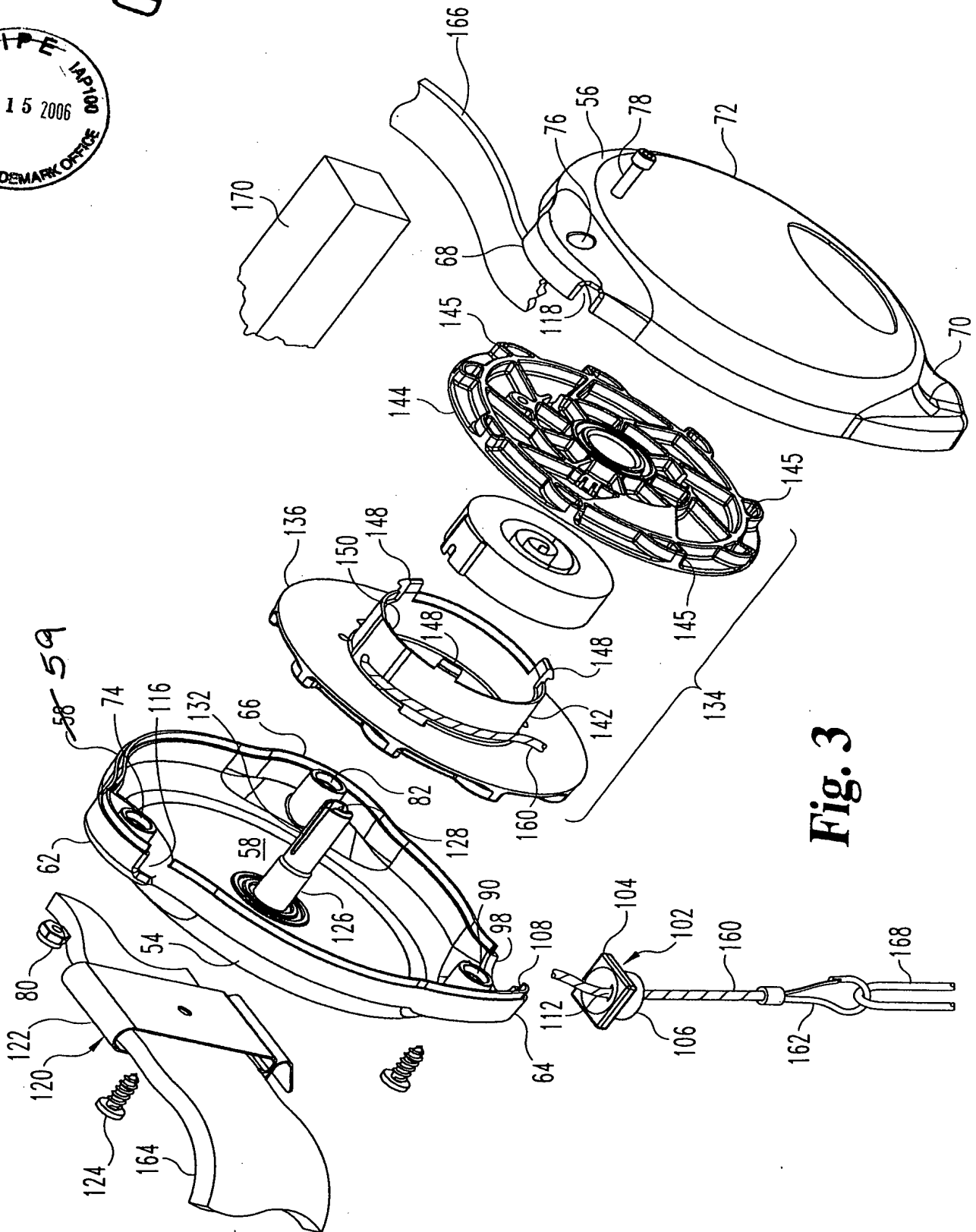
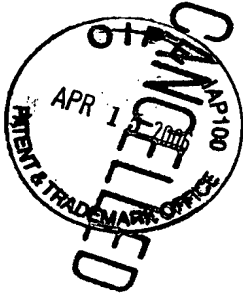


Fig. 3

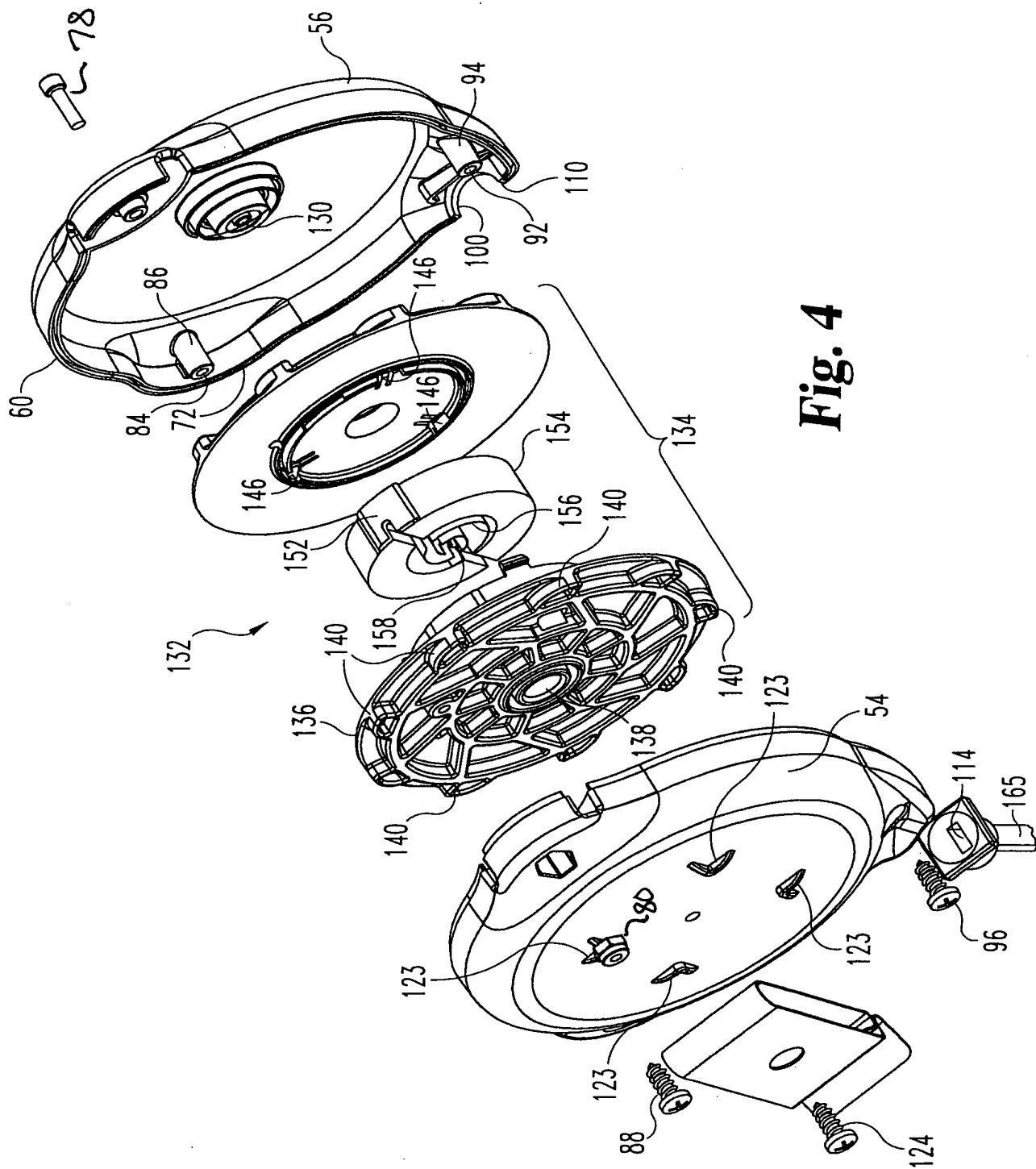


Fig. 4